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From-Steubing, McGuiness & Manaras LLP

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Serial No. 09/307,452

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Art Unit: 2131

In the Claims:

Please cancel claim 16 without prejudice or dedication.

Please amend the below claims as indicated.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of providing security against unauthorized access to internal resources of a network device comprising:

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receiving a digital signature at a security association manager (SAM); wherein said digital signature includes an encryption code;

said SAM requesting a de-encryption code;

said SAM de-encrypting said digital signature with said de-encryption code;

said SAM authenticating said de-encrypted digital signature; and

said SAM, responsive to said authenticating of said de-encrypted digital signature,

obtaining an access level for program code associated with said digital signature; and

said SAM, responsive to said obtained access level, requesting allowed operations, said allowed operations using said internal resources of said network device, said allowed operations associated with said access level, said requesting responsive to processing of said program code.

- 2. (Original) A method of providing security according to Claim 1 wherein said network device comprises a Java enabled device.
- 3. (Currently Amended) A method of providing security according to Claim 1 wherein said encryption-code comprises a private key and said de-encryption code comprises a public key certificate associated with said private key.

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authenticated signature;

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- 4. (Original) A method of providing security according to Claim 1 further comprising: a certificate authority receiving said request for a de-encryption code and comparing information in said request to information stored in said certificate authority.
- 5. (Original) A method of providing security according to Claim 4 further comprising: said certificate authority responding to said request by sending said de-encryption code to said SAM.
- 6. (Currently Amended) A method of providing security according to Claim 1 further comprising: A method of providing security against unauthorized access to internal resources of a network device comprising:

receiving a digita	signature at a security association manager (SAM);
said SAM reques	ting a de-encryption code;
said SAM de-enc	typting said digital signature with said de-encryption code;
said SAM authen	ticating said de-encrypted digital signature;
said SAM reques	ting allowed operations associated with said authenticated signa
a notime conserver	chiring said request for allowed operations associated with said

said policy server domparing said authenticated signature with information stored on said policy server, and

said policy server sending a response to said SAM indicating an access level corresponding to said authenticated signature.

- 7. (Original) A method of providing security according to Claim 6 further comprising: said policy server authenticating said request for allowed operations associated with said authenticated signature prior to comparing said authenticated signature with said information stored on said policy server.
- 8. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for providing security against unauthorized access to internal resources of a network device comprising:



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a security association manager (SAM); configured to receive a digital signature including an encryption code;

wherein said SAM is configured to send a message including a portion of said digital signature;

wherein said message includes a request for an encryption decoder;

wherein said SAM is further configured to receive a response to said message including said encryption decoder; and

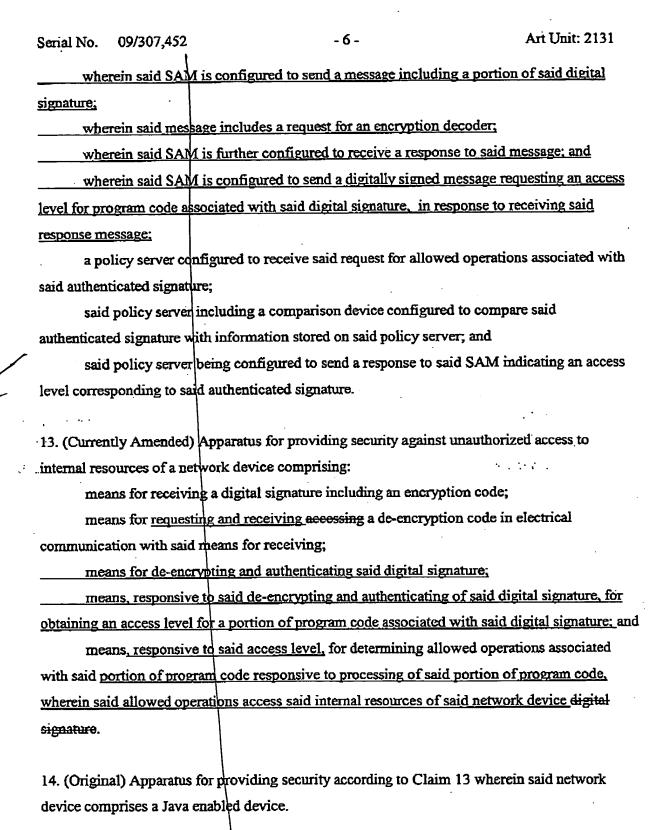
wherein said SAM is configured to send a digitally signed message requesting an access level for program code associated with said digital signature, wherein said access level is associated with at least one allowed operation using said internal resources of said network device responsive to processing of said program code allowed operations associated with said digital signature in response to receiving said replay message.

- 9. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for supplying security in accordance with Claim 8 further comprising:
- a certificate authority configured to receive said message from said SAM, and to send said response reply; wherein said certificate authority includes
- 10. (Original) Apparatus for providing security according to Claim 8 wherein said network device comprises a Java enabled device.
- 11. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for providing security according to Claim 8 wherein said encryption code comprises a private key and said encryption decoder comprises a public key certificate associated with said private key.
- 12. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for providing security according to Claim 8 further comprising: Apparatus for providing security against unauthorized access to internal resources of a network device comprising:

a security association manager (SAM) configured to receive a digital signature;



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- 15. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for providing security according to Claim 13 wherein said portion of program code comprises a further comprising downloadable file associated with said digital signature.
- 16. (Cancelled) Apparatus for providing security according to Claim 13 wherein said encryption code comprises a private key.
- 17. (Original) Apparatus for providing security according to Claim 13 wherein said de-encryption code comprises a public key certificate.
- 18. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for providing security according to Claim 13 further comprising Apparatus for providing security against unauthorized access to internal resources of a network device comprising.

means for receiving a digital signature including an encryption code;

means for accessing a de-encryption code in electrical communication with said means for receiving; and

means for determining allowed operations associated with said digital signature; and means for receiving a downloadable filing including said digital signal and assigning an access level to a java thread.

XX